

Trinity Hall Farm, Moulton, Suffolk



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



November 2012

Client: Godolphin Management

OA East Report No: 1406

OASIS No: oxfordar3-136188

NGR: TL 6727 6480

Trinity Hall Farm, Moulton, Suffolk

Watching Brief

Site Code: XSFTHF11

HER No.: MUN 040

Date of Works: 5 September to 16 October 2012

Report No: 1406

Excavator: Louise Bush

Client: Godolphin Management

Report Date: November 2012

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Summary

Between the 5th September and the 16th October 2012, Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological watching brief at Trinity Hall Farm, Moulton, Suffolk (TL 6727 6480). The monitoring was carried out during the mechanical excavation of an 0.5m wide, 1.2m deep and 1200m long pipe trench connecting a filling basin, reservoir and pumping station.

No features of archaeological interest were encountered during the monitoring. A handful of struck flint flakes were recovered from the topsoil close to the filling basin and a small post-medieval glass and china dump was encountered at the top of Folly Hill.

1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.1.1 The pipe route was located on either side of the Chippenham road on the northern side of the village of Moulton.
- 1.1.2 The underlying geology across the site largely comprises of Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation and New Pit Chalk Formation, though a band of Chalk Rock Member divides this from the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation. There is no superficial geological deposition recorded across much of the site, except along the Kennet floodplain, where alluvium and river terrace deposits of gravel and sand are present (BGS 2011).
- 1.1.3 The eastern end of the pipeline by the filling basin is located within the floodplain of the River Kennet at a height of around 33m OD. The topography slowly rises westwards along the route of the pipeline to the reservoir which sits at around 49m OD before the valley rises sharply up Folly Hill to a height of up to 80m OD.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 The following archaeological background is taken from the Written Scheme of Investigation (Adams 2011):

Prehistoric

- 2.1.2 Previous fieldwork to the north-west and west of the watching brief shows that the site is located in an area containing sporadic evidence relating to prehistoric funerary and domestic activities. The most pertinent archaeological investigations are those undertaken at the Moulton Paddocks and Gallop sites in 2010 (MUN 038 and 039). On the Paddocks site, archaeological trial trenching followed by an excavation revealed prehistoric features ranging in date between the Late Neolithic and Early Iron Age. A Late Neolithic hengi-form monument and Early Iron Age pit group were located on the Gallops site (Bush 2011a). The route of the pipe running west from the reservoir is positioned close to the location of the Early Iron Age pit group.
- 2.1.3 The archaeological evaluation carried out before the construction of the reservoir (MUN 040) revealed a palaeochannel containing a background scatter of Late Neolithic flints and Early Bronze Age pottery (Bush 2011b).
- 2.1.4 Archaeological features broadly categorised as prehistoric have been identified in the surrounding area, including a Neolithic axehead found in the plough soil to the south of the site (MUN 010) and a series of prehistoric pits were found to the north-west (MUN 022).
- 2.1.5 The Ordnance Survey maps show *tumuli* located in the wider area surrounding the site and several barrow clusters have been identified to the north, north-west and east of the watching brief site. A cluster of four barrows can be seen as cropmarks c.300m immediately north of the filling basin site in the adjacent field (MUN 001, 002, 009 and 019).

Roman

- 2.1.6 There is very little evidence for Roman activity in this region. The B1506 Well Bottom Road (located to the north of the site) is believed to run along the line of the Ickneild Way, a major prehistoric route. Its age is debatable, mostly being attributed to the Roman period and therefore implying a potential for material from this period to be found in the area.

- 2.1.7 An area of apparent iron working was excavated at Trinity Hall Farm during the early 1960s and is recorded as evidence of Romano-British occupation (MUN Misc). Unfortunately the records no longer exist for this site and the location is unknown. A Roman glass vessel has also been dug up from a garden in Moulton village (MUN 012).

Medieval

- 2.1.8 Moulton itself is a medieval village centred to the south of the site. There is a small number of known medieval structures within the vicinity of Moulton village, such as Packhorse Bridge (MUN 008) constructed from flint rubble and brick, and Priddy Bridge (MUN 017), which is also built from flint rubble. However, there is no evidence to indicate that the development area was utilised during this period.

Post-medieval and modern

- 2.1.9 The archaeological evaluation carried out prior to the construction of the filling basin (MUN 040) revealed evidence for post-medieval field boundaries and a modern quarry. Further evidence of quarrying to the north of the filling basin is presented in the 1883-1892 Ordnance Survey map and a disused infilled pond and drain constructed by 1970 are apparent as cropmarks to the west of the location of the filling basin.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The objective of this watching brief was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.
- 3.1.2 The Brief required that a targeted watching brief be conducted along the route of the connecting pipeline in areas identified with the potential to contain archaeological remains.
- 3.1.3 Three separate areas of the overall pipeline route were identified in the Brief as needing to be monitored (Fig. 1). The first (Area A) being a 200m section from the filling station to the Chippenham Road. The second area (Area B) was a 260m long section from the Chippenham Road toward the reservoir. The final section (Area C) was 740m in length and ran from part way up Folly Hill toward the crest of the hill and onward to the pumping station.
- 3.1.4 The areas of investigation were located in arable fields to the north and west of Moulton village. The pipe trench crosses the valley of the River Kennet, crosses the Chippenham Road and continues up onto Folly Hill.
- 3.1.5 Any archaeological deposits and finds were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Digital photographs were taken of the pipe trench.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Pipe trench

- 4.1.1 The 0.5m wide pipe trench was excavated to a depth of 1.2m through the topsoil, subsoil (where present) and into the natural geology (Plate 1). Excavation was carried out using a wheeled JCB-type digger with a 0.5m wide toothed bucket.
- 4.1.2 The topsoil (context 100) in Area A was a mid brown clay sand with moderate small to medium sub-angular flint stones. The subsoil (101 - only present adjacent to the road)

consisted of mid brown orange clay sand with frequent small to medium sub-angular flint stones.

- 4.1.3 The topsoil (102) in Area B was a dark brown clay sand with frequent small to medium sub-angular flint pieces. The subsoil (103) was made up of a mid brown orange clay sand with frequent small to medium sub-angular flint stones. Topsoil in Area C was the same as in Area B. There was no subsoil present here (Plate 2).
- 4.1.4 The trench did not uncover any archaeological features or deposits of significance.

4.2 Finds summary

- 4.2.1 Three undiagnostic flint chips and chunks were recovered from topsoil 100 along with a small sherd of medieval pottery. A post-medieval bottle and china dump (104) was also uncovered beneath topsoil 102 during stripping on the top of Folly Hill in Area C.

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the ground works. The finds recovered are of a quantity and type to imply very sporadic passing activity in the area.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1.1 The author would like to thank Godolphin Management Company Ltd who funded the archaeological work and Phillipa Adams of Mott MacDonald who commissioned it. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer. The brief for archaeological works was written by Jess Tipper.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Adams, P. 2011 *New Reservoir, Trinity Hall Farm, Moulton: Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation*. Mott MacDonald. Unpublished.
- Bush, L. 2011a *Late Neolithic to Early Iron Age Activity at Moulton Paddocks and Moulton Gallop, Newmarket, Suffolk*. OA East Report 1258. Unpublished.
- Bush, L. 2011b *Trinity Hall Farm, Moulton, Suffolk*. OA East Report 1295. Unpublished.

APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|---|
| OASIS Number | <input type="text" value="oxfordar3-136188"/> | | | |
| Project Name | <input type="text" value="Watching Brief at Trinity Hall Farm, Moulton, Suffolk"/> | | | |
| Project Dates (fieldwork) | Start | <input type="text" value="05-09-2012"/> | Finish | <input type="text" value="16-10-2012"/> |
| Previous Work (by OA East) | <input type="text" value="Yes"/> | Future Work | <input type="text" value="No"/> | |

Project Reference Codes

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Site Code | <input type="text" value="XSFTHF11"/> | Planning App. No. | <input type="text"/> |
| HER No. | <input type="text" value="MUN 040"/> | Related HER/OASIS No. | <input type="text" value="oxfordar3-107905"/> |

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

Please select all techniques used:

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits) | <input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation | <input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation | <input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation | <input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief |

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

| Monument | Period | Object | Period |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text" value="Select period..."/> | <input type="text" value="Flint"/> | <input type="text" value="Neolithic -4k to -2k"/> |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text" value="Select period..."/> | <input type="text" value="Pottery"/> | <input type="text" value="Medieval 1066 to 1540"/> |
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Project Location

| | | |
|------------|--|--|
| County | <input type="text" value="Suffolk"/> | Site Address (including postcode if possible) |
| District | <input type="text" value="Forest Heath"/> | <input type="text" value="Trinity Hall Farm School Road Moulton CB8 8PR"/> |
| Parish | <input type="text" value="Moulton"/> | |
| HER | <input type="text" value="Suffolk HER"/> | |
| Study Area | <input type="text" value="1200m long by 0.5m wide"/> | National Grid Reference <input type="text" value="TL 6727 6480"/> |

Project Originators

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Organisation | OA EAST |
| Project Brief Originator | Jess Tipper |
| Project Design Originator | N/A |
| Project Manager | Richard Mortimer |
| Supervisor | Louise Bush |

Project Archives

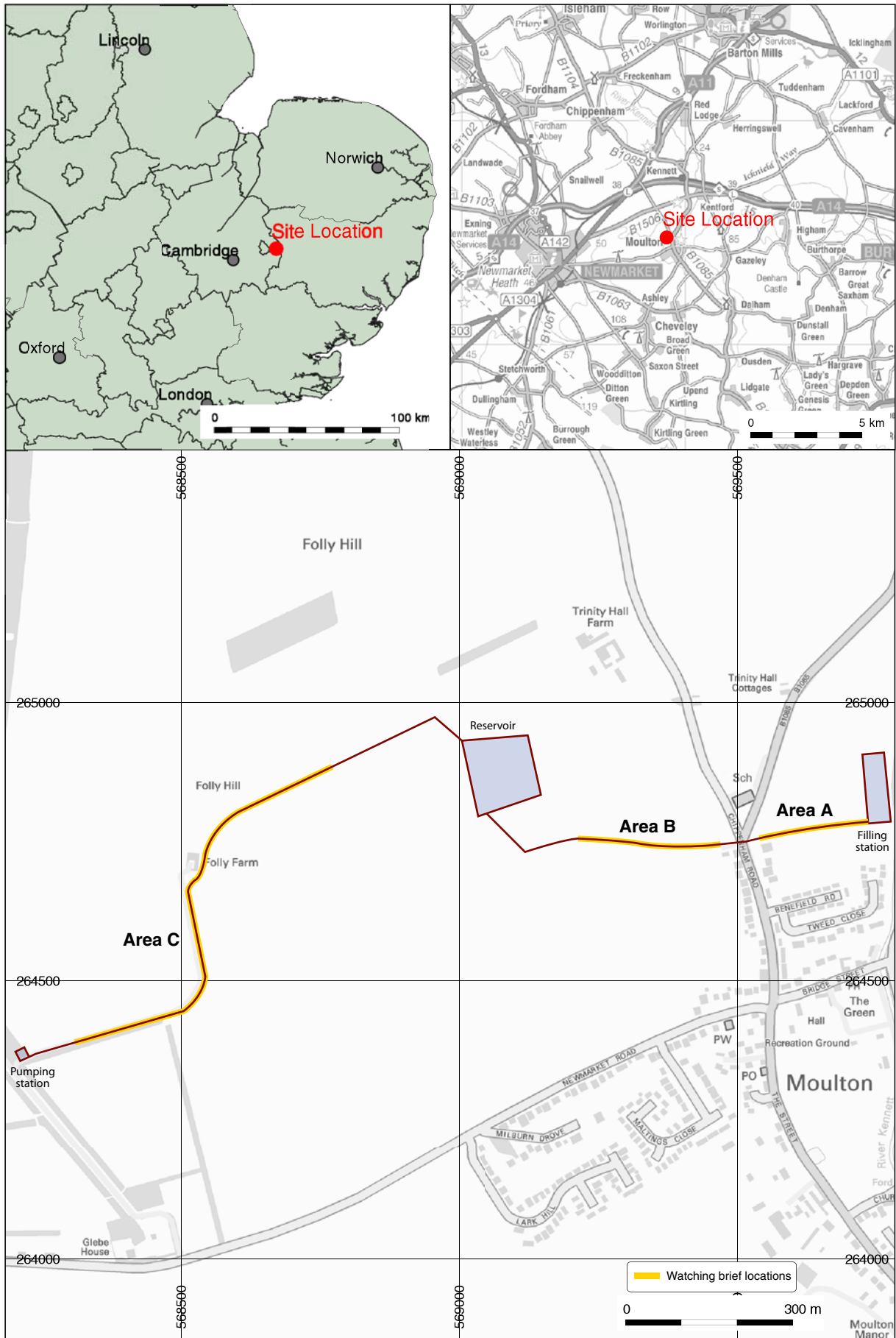
| Physical Archive | Digital Archive | Paper Archive |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| St Edmundsbury museum | OA East | St Edmundsbury museum |
| XSFTHF11 | XSFTHF11 | XSFTHF11 |

Archive Contents/Media

| | Physical Contents | Digital Contents | Paper Contents |
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| Animal Bones | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ceramics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Environmental | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Worked Bone | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Worked Stone/Lithic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| None | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| Digital Media | Paper Media |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Database | <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GIS | <input type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics | <input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image | <input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Matrices |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text | <input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality | <input type="checkbox"/> Misc. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Photos |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Plans |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Sections |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Survey |

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location



Plate 1: Section of pipe trench



Plate 2: Pipe trench down Folly Hill, looking north-east



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